Nation

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Nation 20 1993-2013 Flashback

A Sacred Journey

Cree youth brave the winter elements for Aboriginal rights

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Facts and messages

by Will Nicholls

An recent Ipsos-Reid poll for Global Television and Postmedia News purported to show that two-thirds of Canadians believe First Nations are well treated by the federal government. They also believe First Nations receive too much funding from the feds, but still feel that Natives' quality of life should be improved. Many others supported the statement that First Nations communities are responsible for their problems as they created them in the first place.

It seems contradictory, as improving our quality of life doesn't come free. One 15-year-old estimate said an additional $7.5 billion a year would be needed to address social and economic problems faced by First Nations. The reluctance of Canadians to pay higher taxes is understandable. The Canadian Taxpayers Federation, a corporate-funded lobby group, annually pegs a "Tax Freedom Day," which usually falls at some point in early June, as the date that Canadian taxpayers finally start earning for themselves after all municipal, provincial, federal taxes and sundry other levies are paid off.

Of course, the federation never calculates the benefits that taxpayers receive for their collective contribution, and this simplistic sloganeering strikes a chord with voters. It's an example of how facts and statistics are managed, rearranged, twisted, ignored or hidden behind a layer of ignorance and beliefs. Unfortunately, the government of Prime Minister Stephen Harper unashamedly engages in this game of win-at-any-cost-to-truth.

In reality, the average Canadian receives an average of $24,000 in government spending from federal, provincial and municipal levels. Many different studies put the average spending on a resident of a First Nations reserve at between $11,000 and $13,000, or half the public benefits bestowed on non-Natives.

Yes, the standard of living has to go up, but polls indicate nobody wants to pay to ensure equal benefits for all if it comes out of their pocket. This is why I say the government spin doctors have earned their pay in using their figures of how much First Nations receive each year, demanding chiefs' salaries be made public and broadly hinting at monetary mismanagement.

And yet, the Harper Conservatives have themselves run record budget deficits over the last few years. Few have suggested the federal government be placed under third-party management.

Apart from that hypocrisy, basic economic justice should add the funding shortfall to the fact that, for each dollar the average Canadian puts in his or her pocket, Canadian Aboriginals earn only 70 cents. Or that one in four Aboriginal children lives in poverty. And that, in most First Nations, and especially in remote communities, the cost of living is significantly higher. Attawapiskat residents, for example, pay $23.50 for a bounty of six apples and four small bottles of juice.

What this tells us is that, as First Nations, we are not doing our job to educate our Canadian neighbours. Our message is not reaching the majority of non-Aboriginal Canadians. We have to take a serious and strategic look at why that is and how we can change it.

Branding is about marketing a product or service, and now it's time to market the public image of First Nations. We have to change the public image of Aboriginals as lazy, waiting for a hand out, on welfare, alcoholic and violent. Those stereotypes enable and abet injustice toward our people, as somehow less deserving of consideration. It's time we set loose our own spin doctors to weave more truth into the debate over the reality of First Nations in Canada.

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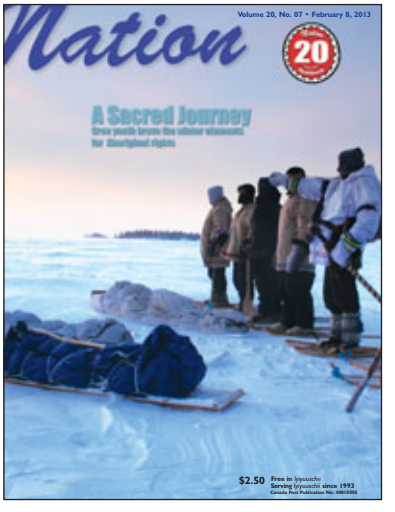

Pointing to the way forward

photo by:
Matthew Mukash

Tax? What's that?

by Sonny Orr

I was perusing through the many or should I say, thousands upon thousands of comments on Chief Spence's hunger strike and the Idle No More movement, and most comments I could see were made by people who really have no idea of what this whole thing is about.

One of the things that really gets me are the comments on the taxes which supposedly finance and support First Nations peoples. But in reality, those very taxes are subsidized by funds generated through the use of First Nations lands. Stuff like land use, forestry, mining, petroleum, all those high revenue-generating businesses, if granted the right to use Crown lands (a.k.a. First Nations lands) contribute those taxes to the government. Then some of that money is handed down to Indian Affairs, who then hand down some money to the bands to administer.

So, in reality, no individual's actual monies are used to finance me. They are left-over funds from natural resource development taxes that fund me. Of course, I must also report to the government and pay taxes if so required. So, in a way, I am double paying the government, the reverse of the many comments that seem to erroneously align themselves with racism and other nasty particulars that tend to arise when different views are so widely expressed.

I, for one, wouldn't mind having a spot of tea with the prime minister to discuss such matters as the nasty moulds growing on our houses and other delicate items such as having to pay more for basic stuff than any other Canadian, stuff like that, you know... Perhaps I could talk him into having a special tax exemption for Justin Bieber, so he could make even more money and perhaps spread some around and perhaps even finance a national hockey team and whip every team on the planet.

This could relieve many taxpayers' idea that they actually finance First Nations peoples by just narrowing it down to the richest kid in the world. I'm pretty sure, that Justin, if you're listening, go get your band number and save a bundle at the gas pump. In fact, just go buy an oil patch or two. Ahhh, the things one can to do with unspent taxes. Anyways, Justin need not worry, because I'm pretty sure he made so much money that he qualifies for the big business tax credits that we always seem to grumble about.

Meanwhile, back home, where the taxes don't roam, the price tags don't seem to show any break at all. And, at a cash register just outside our lands, we end up paying more tax on the same item anyways, just because the price is so high. So if anyone thinks I'm getting a break at the pump or at the store, one has to remember, there are no such things as breaks up north. And if there are, it's usually in favour of big business. So relax taxpayers, be glad that's all you have to pay for and get all of it back in services.

I just thought that I'd bring this up just in case someone thought that I get some of your income tax funds. Sorry, the government gets all your money. Don't forget to file this year.

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Booming trade

Val-d'Or's Business Exchange Day leads to contracts for Cree entities

by Jesse Staniforth

An independent study by AECOM, commissioned by the Secretariat to the Cree Nation Abitibi-Témiscamingue Economic Alliance (SAENCAT), shows that the Secretariat's signature event, the Business Exchange Day held annually in Val-d'Or, has led to a significant number of contracts.

An organization founded to encourage "harmonious development of the Cree Nation and the Abitibi-Témiscamingue regions," SAENCAT organizes the annual Business Exchange Day to "unite the businesses of the Cree Nation and those of the Abitibi-Témiscamingue, Lebel-sur-Quévillon and Matagami regions." Partnered with a number of municipalities (including Val-d'Or, Amos and Rouyn-Noranda) and chambers of commerce, along with the Cree Nation, and the province of Quebec, SAENCAT says it is successfully "[contributing] to the development of the North" and provides the results of the survey as evidence of that fact.

SAENCAT Director of Operations Chantal Hamelin said, "Because we already know that Business Exchange Day is a good event and that there's a lot of benefits that come out of it, we [commissioned this study] to show that to our partners and have a document that really shows the exact numbers for the benefits of the Exchange Day. Everybody says it's a good event and that results in building contracts. We wanted to have an estimate of the value of the contracts, because we knew that this event was helping to strengthen business relationships between Crees and Abitibi-Témiscamingue region. We decided to make the study public because it's working proof that Exchange Day benefits the Crees and the businesses from this region."

The study's most startling number is the dollar value in business transactions arranged through Exchange Day. Specifically, those who participated in the Business Exchange Day held in December 2011 were asked what total value of contracts and agreements had come about as of August 2012 as a result of the event: respondents reported that over $19 million in trade came directly from the 2011 Exchange Day. More impressively, however, participants estimated that based on contracts in the works for 2013, these relationships would total over $111 million.

Participants in the event from the Cree Nation consisted principally of construction-related enterprises, followed by band councils and development agencies. Those from the Abitibi-Témiscamingue region were more varied, representing professional, scientific and technical services; construction companies; mining and forestry businesses; wholesalers; and development agencies.

According to the study, the Exchange Day resulted in new training for personnel for 73% of the Cree Nation organizations who attended the event, and generated new jobs at 46% of the attending businesses from the Abitibi-Témiscamingue region.

"These were very strong results for us," said Hamelin. "We found that people were very happy to be interviewed for this study, because they liked the event and will be coming back. They want it to continue. And we can see that by the number of people participating every year. We are now seeing more and more Inuit participating, along with Crees from northern Quebec, as well as Algonquins and Innu from eastern Quebec and Labrador. It is beginning to go beyond the region and the Cree Nation. The event is open to all First Nations that want to do business with people from the [Abitibi-Témiscamingue] region."

"WE'RE CREATING TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT BECAUSE OF THE CONTRACTS [RESULTING FROM BUSINESS EXCHANGE DAY], AND WE'RE CREATING WEALTH – WHICH IS CREATING SPIN-OFF EFFECTS IN THESE COMMUNITIES."

The press release from SAENCAT emphasized that economic development in both the communities of the Cree Nation and of the regions of Abitibi-Témiscamingue, Lebel-sur-Quévillon and Matagami is continually growing.

"The prospects of developing relationships between businesses from the regions and the Cree communities are very promising," states the press release, "and clearly indicative of significant economic growth in the years to come."

Hamelin said this devlopment will multiply economic opportunities.

"We're creating training and employment," she said, "because of the contracts [resulting from Business Exchange Day], and we're creating wealth – which is creating spin-off effects in these communities."

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Protecting the herd

Organizations highlight threats to woodland caribou

by Brandon Judd

The Cree Regional Authority (CRA) and the Cree Trappers Association (CTA) have launched an initiative to raise awareness of the fast-diminishing woodland caribou herd.

According to an independent study commissioned by the CRA, the woodland caribou population is falling sharply, especially among the eastern Temiscamie herd, whose territory has seen a glut of road building and forestry activity over the past few years.

"What we saw a lot of was where there were roads and forestry activity, the caribou were absent," said Nadia Saganash, Wildlife Management Administrator at the CRA. "Because of this, they were being isolated in certain patches of forest cover left in the territory."

This conclusion motivated the Cree to protest new construction that would damage the critical remaining remnants of the caribou habitat. After efforts by a joint Cree-Quebec task force to establish conservation protocols stalled, the CRA launched an awareness campaign within Eeyou Istchee.

"What we're trying to do is build an awareness campaign to let people know what's happening to the caribou," said Jean-Baptiste Loon, Special Projects Coordinator for the CTA. "Non-Natives are not allowed to hunt the caribou [due to provincial and federal protection], but the Crees have rights to kill woodland caribou. While they don't kill many, we're still asking them to limit the amount of kills."

Saganash was quick to note the rarely necessary step of specifically requesting a moratorium on kills.

"It is an important cultural element for families, but we've found that once people know the caribou population is falling, they willingly change their mindsets to conservation," she said. "We haven't had to say 'stop hunting'. We've just raised awareness about the population issue and it's taken care of itself."

photo by Natalie d'Astous

The CRA and CTA's outreach to the Cree has included a bit of crowdsourcing. They requested that while Cree are out on the land, they should note the location of any woodland caribou, so that tracking the herd and its habits is easier. Especially important, they say, is to notify the presence or the absence of calves.

"There's been very few sightings of calves right now, which means reproduction is very low," said Loon. "The extensive road development has had an extremely negative effect on the reproduction and survival of the herd."

The report, "Status of Woodland Caribou in the James Bay Region of Northern Quebec", was published last September. The joint study – the four authors hail from the Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM), à Rimouski (UQAR) and en Abitibi-Témiscamingue (UQAT) – mentioned the woodland caribou's aversion to roads, and the resulting effect on caribou access to safe calving grounds.

"Female caribou in proximity to highly roaded areas may be constrained in their search for predator-free space during the critical calving period," the report states. "Not only do roads contribute enormously to landscape fragmentation and habitat loss ... they also facilitate improved access ... for both animal and human predators."

While the awareness campaign is proceeding well, Saganash stressed the need to expand efforts into true conservation, with the eventual goal being the establishment of protected zones within Eeyou Istchee. This, however, seems far off after what she described as a battle with the Quebec government.

"At this point, we're not too positive in terms of what can be done in terms of conservation," she said. "What should be done, and I think all biologists would say this, is to disregard the economical aspects of this and establish a protected zone, stop harvesting and go into restoration mode. But we aren't doing that now."

Until then, efforts are being made to teach hunters the difference between woodland caribou and the other two types of caribou – migratory and barren ground. However establishing meaningful conservation efforts, Saganash said, appear to be dangerously far off for the dwindling herds.

Romeo Saganash appointed Deputy Critic

Two days after returning from a three-month medical leave January 17, NDP MP Romeo Saganash was appointed Deputy Critic for Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs for his party. Saganash wasted no time making an impact by signing the declaration to carry on the struggle for Indigenous rights.

NDP leader Thomas Mulcair said he promoted Saganash because of his depth of experience and his role as an author of La Paix des Braves. "I hold Romeo in high regard," said Mulcair. "I admire his determination and good negotiation skills. He understands the magnitude of the task before him, and I know that he is up to this new challenge."

Saganash returned to Parliament Hill in good spirit from a three-month leave.

After being ejected from an Air Jazz flight due to inebriation on October 19, Saganash took time off to recover from his dependency on alcohol.

"Saganash is very excited to get back to work," NDP Caucus Press Secretary Youssef Amane said. "He will be focused on making sure Parliament is committed to resolving First Nations issues."

During his time away, the Idle No More movement has flourished and with his new position as Deputy Critic for Aboriginal Affairs Saganash has gained a strong voice to represent them in Parliament Hill. "I return to Ottawa full of energy. We are currently at a crossroads in relations between government and First Nations and we must seize this opportunity without delay," he said.

On January 20, Saganash awarded 23 Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee medals to citizens from his riding of Abitibi-Baie James-Nunavik-Eeyou. A medal awarding ceremony is scheduled for February 2 in Chibougamou for seven award recipients.

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Chief Spence ends hunger strike

Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence ended her 44-day hunger strike January 24. The same day, Elder Raymond Robinson, of the Cree Cross Lake Indian Reserve in Manitoba, ended his own hunger strike. Robinson had joined Spence two days into her protest in December.

The circumstances of Spence's decision to end her strike – following the great success of the Idle No More movement, of which she had quickly become a figurehead – were summed up in a declaration released January 24. It said the hunger strike had succeeded in making "clear the need for fundamental change in the relationship of First Nations and the Crown," and underlined the commitment "to carry forward the urgent and coordinated action required until concrete and tangible results are achieved in order to allow First Nations to forge their own destiny."

More specifically, the declaration called for "a renewed First Nations-Crown relationship where inherent Treaty and non-Treaty Rights are recognized, honoured and fully implemented as they should be, within the next five years," and laid out a set of 13 priorities to begin working toward immediately.

The declaration was signed and endorsed by the Assembly of First Nations, the Native Women's Association of Canada, interim Liberal Party leader Bob Rae, the Liberal Party of Canada Parliamentary Caucus, the NDP National Caucus and Green Party leader Elizabeth May.

After spending the night in hospital (which caused her to miss the press conference announcing the end of the strike) to receive IV fluids following 44 days of consuming only fish broth and herbal tea, Spence signed the declaration herself at a ceremony in an Ottawa hotel.

Diamond Jubilee medals rejected

Ellen Gabriel, former president of the Quebec Native Women association, and Grand Council Chief Patrick Madahbee of the Anishinabek Nation both rejected the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal.

The medal is meant to "honour significant contributions and achievements by Canadians" for the 60th anniversary of Queen Elizabeth's accession to the throne. The program is run by the office of Governor General David Johnston.

Gabriel was selected because of her advocacy for Indigenous women and Madahbee selected for his 30 years of involvement in band politics.

In their rejection of the medal, Gabriel and Madahbee cited the current tense political climate between First Nations and the federal government as a major reason for their refusal.

Gabriel said, "This medal in honour of Queen Elizabeth II reminds me of the broken treaties, the violated honour of the Crown and the paternalistic relationship that the federal government continues to impose on our peoples."

Although she rejected the medal, Gabriel made sure to show her appreciation for Quebec Native Women, the organization that nominated her. "The attention the Quebec Native Women association…is the real recognition of my commitment for the rights of Indigenous women," said Gabriel.

Madahbee said he wished to "express my respect and gratitude to whomever nominated me but I hope they appreciate that, given the current political challenges being faced by First Nations in Canada, I do not feel it appropriate at this time for me to accept this award."

He added, "Trinkets are no substitutes for treaty rights."

Pssst...

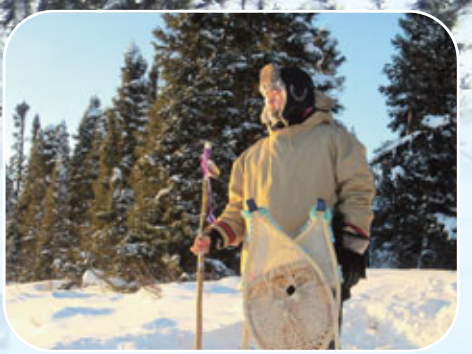
Have any information you'd like to share with *the Nation*? Feel like there's something the rest of the Cree Nation should know? Well that's what *the Nation* is here for. Call us at 514-272-3077 or write us at news@beesum-communications.com and we'll look into your story. If you don't contact us, your voice won't be heard!

Comic strip courtesy of Tundra Comics: www.tundracomics.com

A Sacred Journey

Cree youth brave the winter elements to walk from Whapmagoostui to Ottawa

written by Akiva Levitas photos by Stanley Jason George and Robbie Kawapit



Stanley George Junior at 16 years old is the youngest of the group.

Geordie Rupert, 21 years old

Johnny Abraham Kawapit, 18 years old

Raymond "Bajo" Kawapit, 18 years old

The day they left Whapmagoostui!

Departing from the First Nation of Whapmagoostui on January 16, five brave young men and two guides set out on the Quest of Wisjinichu-Nishiyuu (Quest for Unity) to Ottawa to demonstrate the commitment of the Cree people to the cause of Aboriginal rights.

At this point in their journey, the walkers are nearing Chisasibi. On their arrival in Chisasibi, 10 others from Whapmagoostui and nine more from Chisasibi will join them for the remainder of their quest. Whapmagoostui Youth Chief Ben Mathews said, "We have around 10 people who are interested so we're going to charter a flight so they can join them in Chisasibi."

Travis George, 17 years old. He will celebrate his 18th birthday on the Journey

David Kawapit, 17 years old... he too will celebrate his 18th birthday on this journey.

photo courtesy Ruth Masty

Isaac getting help with his bandana (scarf) from his mother.

Isaac Kawapit will celebrate his 47th birthday on this journey

The journey is already having an impact on the youths who back home were not known to be good friends but now have developed a close relationship. Not just their minds are being strengthened through this quest but also their bodies.

"Overall, they're doing well. They're getting stronger. When you walk for the first few days it's very difficult because the muscles need to get used to the strain, but now they accustomed to it," said former Grand Chief Matthew Mukash, who has been visiting the walkers periodically during their journey. At first they did not travel much distance, but with each passing day they are going further and further.

The trek will take the group over 1100 kilometres with their expected arrival in Ottawa being sometime mid-March. The walkers will be travelling along traditional trade routes as a display of unity with neighbouring First Nations.

Hailing from Whapmagoostui, the five participants are David Kawapit, Stanley George Jr., Raymond Kawapit, Travis George and Geordie Rupert. The two guides are Abraham Masty and Isaac Kawapit. Several of the walkers have already celebrated their birthdays en route including guide Isaac Kawapit, affectionately known as "the white wizard", who turned 47.

Before setting off, they received guidance and prayers from their Elders. "The Elders taught them how to walkabout, staying warm, managing their perspiration, and other things that will help them," Mukash said.

Before leaving Whapmagoostui, the group went around the community saying their goodbyes to friends and family. They made sure to visit with a young wheelchair-bound man referred to as "Ugly George" who wanted to see them before they left and he was very touched by their appearance.

The overwhelming support for their endeavour has increased the participants' resolve to complete their quest. Facing the frigid temperatures of the harsh northern landscape, the tenacity of these young men will continue to draw attention to First Nations issues. "They're really amped up and they can't wait to reach each of the communities along their path," Mukash said. "They're also anxious to meet the new walkers."

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The *Nation* is turning 20! To commemorate this historic occasion, the *Nation* is embarking on a retrospective countdown to its 20th Anniversary in November 2013. In the next 19 issues, the *Nation* flashback will feature some of the *Nation*'s stories, photos and award winning coverage throughout the years, which will be compiled in a 20th collector's edition issue. Brought to you by Idle No More.

Volume 6, No. 8

NEWS

March 12, 1999

Cree-Quebec relations break down

Relations between the Quebec and Cree governments have broken down as a result of the *Mario Lord* forestry case.

The Quebec government recently took a hard line cutting off negotiations on the Memorandum of Understanding and a potential $117 million in funding, saying the Crees were negotiating in bad faith.

Native Affairs Minister Guy Chevrette wrote a letter to Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come on Feb. 10, saying Quebec would suspend the implementation of the 1995 MOU until all the chiefs meet with Quebec to discuss Cree intentions.

This means halting funding for basic services like sewage systems, as well as community projects like daycare centres.

Chevrette's letter left Cree leaders fuming. After meeting with chiefs, Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come responded with a letter to Premier Lucien Bouchard calling Chevrette's letter "a threat, a provocation and a convenient excuse for the Government of Quebec for seeking to withdraw from its commitments" (see page 19 for excerpts from the two letters).

Chevrette wrote in his letter that he thought the *Mario Lord* forestry case had been suspended. The $600-million-plus Cree court case was filed last July. Last fall, chiefs did vote to suspend the case, but Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come refused to do so without consulting the people.

The court case stood. But at the time, Crees did agree to suspend a planned injunction on forestry activities, preferring to give Quebec six months to make meaningful progress in talks with Crees.

But those talks never even got off the ground, leading Crees to decide recently to finally file an injunction to stop forestry in Cree land. Chevrette wasn't too happy with this. He responded by suspending the MOU, including the coming fiscal year's projects.

But Cree chiefs are still wondering what happened to the funding for this fiscal year. Ouje-Bougoumou Chief Louise Wapachee said the last time she looked at the books, the band had only received about 30 per cent of this year's funding and the fiscal year was almost over. Some chiefs are wondering if Chevrette's letter is just a way for Quebec to get out of its MOU obligations. Others are saying this may be a test case to see how serious the Crees are about forestry and if they're united.

But whatever the reasons, Cree leadership is up in arms. The Grand Chief wrote that he was disappointed at Quebec's actions, but not surprised. He called the suspension of the MOU a "particularly insolent breach of Cree rights," and said Crees may launch a court case to get Quebec to live up to its promises in the MOU.

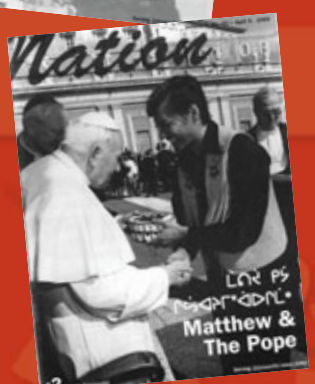
The hard-line stance is a collective effort, said Whapmagoostui Chief Matthew Mukash. "They have two options. They can ignore it or they can meet with us to clear up the process," he said in an interview.

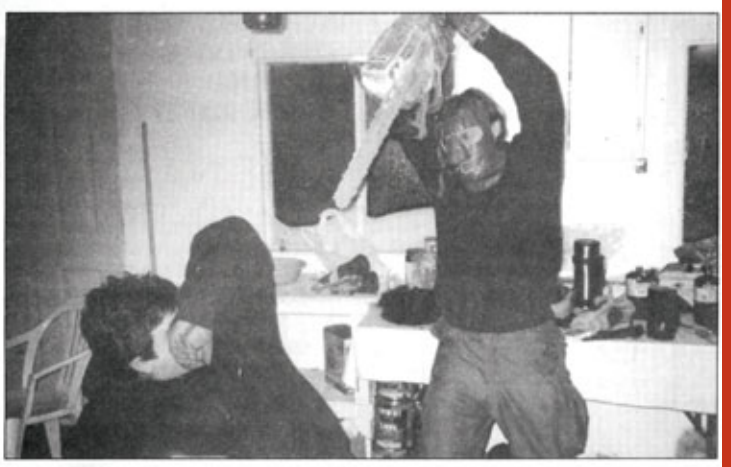
Nemaska Chief George Wapachee said, "This could be seen as monetary blackmail on the part of the Quebec Government or a test to see if we're ready to trade land and Cree culture for money. We've never given in to that."

Phone calls to the premier's office and other ministers were referred to Chevrette's office, where no one returned repeated calls.

by William Nicholls

Favorite covers from Vol. 4 series



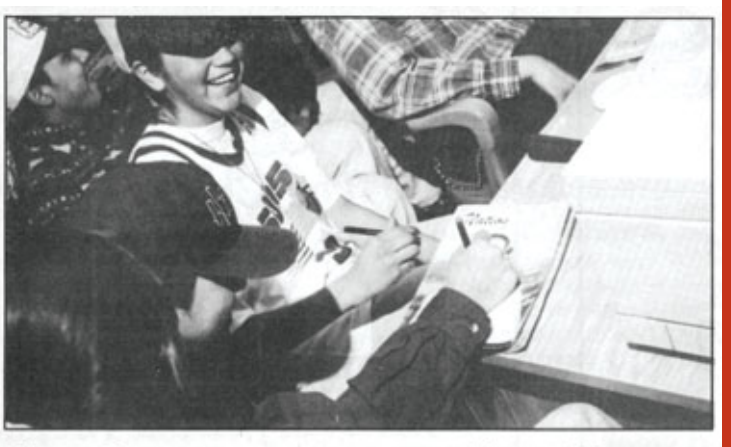


RCMP SAYS NATIVES ARMED TO THE TEETH

Vol. 6 No. 10 - April 9, 1999

WASWANIPI SET TO BLOCK ROAD THIS SUMMER

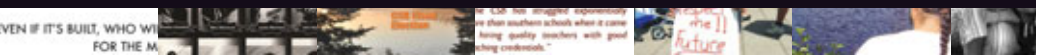
Vol. 6 No. 11 - April 23, 1999



HEAD START A NO-START FOR FIRST NATIONS

Vol 6 No. 02 - December 18, 1998

COUNTDOWN TO 20TH.... 19 ISSUES LEFT



Nation 20 1993-2013 flashback

20th flashback brought to you by **IDLE NO MORE**

Mission Statement and Action Plan

Idle No More calls all people to join in a revolution which honors and fulfills Indigenous sovereignty and protects the land and water. Colonization continues through attacks to Indigenous rights and damage to the land and water. We must repair these violations; live the spirit and intent of the Treaty relationship, work towards justice in action by protecting Mother Earth. All Canadians will be affected by the continued damage to the land and water. We welcome Indigenous and non-Indigenous allies to join in creating healthy sustainable communities. We encourage youth to become engaged in this movement as you are our future leaders. There have always been individuals and groups who have been working towards these goals – Idle No More seeks to create solidarity and further support these goals.

Support and encourage grassroots to create their own forums to learn more about Indigenous rights and our responsibilities to our Nationhood via teach-ins, rallies and social media. Build relationships and create understanding with allies across Canada and globally. Contribute to building relationships with international agencies such as the UN to raise awareness to the conditions Indigenous people have been subjected to and assert our sovereignty in the international arena.

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Nation 20 1993-2013 flashback

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Their Facebook page, "The Journey of Nishiyuu", has attracted over 18,500 members from around the world, as far as China and South Africa. "People are very excited and even some famous public figures, such as Justin Trudeau, are asking to join in on a later date," Mukash said.

Members from nearby communities check on them every day, using snowmobiles to reach them, ensuring that they are safe and have plenty of supplies. Three hunters have been aiding them by going up the trail by snowmobile carve a path for them to walk along. They also bring caribou meat to provide the energy the need to continue their march.

Although they are far out in the wilderness, the actions of these young men reverberate across this country. Inspired by their fierce warrior ancestors, these young men are carrying to Ottawa the hope of all First Nations who are inspired by their bravery in facing the elements. As their numbers grow so does the impact they will have on the Idle No More movement.

John Clarence Kawapit has been cooking, setting up camp, getting firewood, and teaching them about the ways of living on the land.

Intimate escapes

Where to hide out with your loved one(s) this winter

by Amy German

While St. Valentine's Day may be just around the corner, when it comes to booking a few days for a sweet couple's escape or a playful getaway with the immediate family, just about any time is a good time to hit the road, particularly with the frigid temperatures of late.

A beach holiday may be on the minds of many, but if you are simply looking for a weekend getaway for some indoor and outdoor fun to beat the winter blues, read on. We at *the Nation* are feeling the same need to break away from the everyday and have explored how and where to indulge our desire escape in style.

Whether it is for endless spa treatments or to cozy up to the fire with the après-ski crowd, to take caleche rides en route to a gourmet extravaganza or find a winter wonderland that features playful activities for everyone, we have got some of the finest car-accessible escapes listed below.

So, if you haven't picked out some place special to celebrate your love this season, perhaps we will have just what your heart desires.

Val-d'Or

While Val-d'Or is often a destination for business and a little pleasure on the side, more often than not it is the place to go to for functionality rather than a "dream getaway." However, that does not mean that Val-d'Or is without its own delights if you want to go somewhere with a city vibe while staying in the north.

If you want to stay in Val-d'Or's newest digs, head to the Cree-owned Quality Inn and Suites to luxuriate in this hotel's brand-new, lush suites that all feature king-size beds with pillow tops and plasma-screen TVs.

According to hotel manager Michael Prince, if you are looking to set the mood for love, the hotel can easily accommodate a request to cover the bed in rose petals or have roses in the room upon arrival.

If you and your sweetheart really want to indulge yourselves after your time spent in Val-d'Or for work or perhaps a shopping getaway, the hotel also offers a spa weekend package in conjunction with Spa Bella Donna that features a luxurious room, a 60-minute massage, Scandinavian baths and a fruit cocktail. Transportation to and from the spa from the hotel can also be arranged.

As it is the job of any hotel manager to be schooled in the best of what their region has to offer, be sure to ask for suggestions on where to go for a sweet treat or what hot spots in Val-d'Or are ideal for a date night.

Having sampled the cuisine ourselves, we at the Nation suggest Bar Bistro l'Entracte for a sophisticated night out of fine dining, drinks and live entertainment. This is the only establishment in Val-d'Or that actually offers big city dining.

For more info: www.qualityinnval-dor.com; www.cliniquebelladonna.com/; www.barbistrolentracte.com

Montebello

One of Quebec's original resorts, the Chateau Montebello is a world-class, CAA/AAA Four Diamond Award destination that offers nothing but the best to patrons when it comes to spoiling its guests.

Once a private Seigniory Club, since it was opened to the public in 1970 this chateau has been host to a wide variety of celebrities, royalty, prime ministers and world leaders, especially while hosting international summits.

Couples who come to the resort for a hot little getaway can be swept up in all of Montebello's winter charms as they cozy up in the chateau's unique ambiance of dramatic high ceilings, rustic log-cabin motif and alluring central fireplace.

A Fairmount-owned resort, the Chateau Montebello offers romance packages for a one- or two-night stay that feature a 60-minute romantic massage for two at their new spa, incredible table d'hôte dining at the hotel's Aux Chantignoles Restaurant, breakfast either in your room or at the buffet as well as fancy perks such as chocolate-covered strawberries in your room.

Montebello

Whether you want to get away with your love for a couple's retreat or take the entire family, there is a bevy of activities designed to celebrate the beauty of the outdoors or shelter you from the cold in style.

Aside from an impressive indoor pool, activities include curling, tube sliding, snowmobiling, skating, sleigh rides, ice fishing, dog sledding, snowshoeing, skeet shooting, cross-country skiing and indoor tennis. There are limitless possibilities for adventurers and romantics alike.

For those looking to explore the town of Montebello, the community is renowned for its top-notch French chefs, galleries, museums and historical tours.

For more info:
www.fairmont.com/montebello

First Nations Hotel

If you are looking for the only hotel retreat that celebrates the splendour of Aboriginal culture in haute-couture style, look no further than the First Nations Hotel in Wendake.

If you want to stimulate cultural senses and pride, this luxurious hotel-museum experience is not to be missed. It combines the allure of Native artisan work as well as elements of nature in the décor that include stone, leather and wood as well as a striking architectural concept.

For those looking to get away for some romantic downtime as a couple, this hotel offers all sorts of goodies and packages that can be combined with dinner package options from the in-house restaurant, La Traite, and the exclusive Centre Nation Santé-Spa.

La Traite is Quebec's only Aboriginal-inspired restaurant and features all sorts of home-smoked fish and game, local and organic products, and signature dishes that celebrate the best that Northern cuisine has to offer.

If deep relaxation is your goal, work out your kinks at the province's only Native-inspired spa: the Centre Nation Santé-Spa offers mind-blowing forms of indulgence. Featuring everything from massotherapy to balneotherapy to chromotherapy, care for the body, Nordic spas, a yurt and waterfalls, this is spa care at its finest and offered in the breathtaking beauty of Mother Nature.

If the whole family is along for the ride, the hotel offers various packages in conjuction with its museum as well as many of the attractions available in Quebec City, like the aquarium, Village Vacances Valcartier and spring-break packages.

For more info:
www.hotelpremieresnations.ca

First Nations Hotel in Wendake

Mont Tremblant

If you're looking for a winter resort town that is all about the best hotels, the hottest slopes, a wide selection of establishments offering haute cuisine, happening nightclubs and enough wholesome activities during the day to tucker the kids out, Mont Tremblant delivers.

If a romantic couple's escape is what you seek and you are willing to put your money where your libido is, look no further than Hotel Quintessence for the ultimate experience in luxury far beyond your imagination.

This hotel, spa and restaurant is one of Mont Tremblant's top-rated resorts and features a wide variety of packages that include meals at its Restaurant La Quintessence & Winebar and treatments from its Spa Sans Sabots either within the spa or in the comfort of your glamorous room.

Speaking of accommodations, suites at this boutique hotel look like they are expecting royalty. They feature king-sized beds, wood-burning fireplaces, a private balcony or large terrace with screened French patio doors that open for fresh air, spacious bathrooms equipped with heated marble floors, deep-sunken therapeutic spa bathtubs, separate rain shower and private water closets. The Quintessence is Tremblant's ultimate place to celebrate your romantic relationship.

For more info:
www.hotelquintessence.com

If you are getting away with the whole family for some good times and innocent fun, there are many establishments that offer all sorts of delights for the very tall down to the very small.

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A DIVISION OF BELL ALIANT

When in Tremblant, *the Nation* recommends the Fairmount Mont Tremblant. Nestled at the top of the village like a cherry on top of an extravagant sundae, this Fairmount hotel has all sorts of sweet sensations to serve up for a perfect family getaway. Visitors can practically ski up to the front doors and then take in a soak at one of the hotel's year-round heated outdoor hot tubs. Or splash away the afternoon in the hotel's family-friendly indoor pool.

If the kids are missing their furry friend at home, the hotel has a concierge dog for them to play with in the lobby. The whole family can then take in one of the many indoor and outdoor activities that this playground of a resort town has to offer, including gondola rides, snowmobiling, dog sledding, cross-country skiing, tubing, skating, snowshoeing and ice climbing.

Sizzling dinners at the hotel's Windigo Restaurant are bound to please everyone as will the out-of-this-world breakfast/brunch buffet.

This hotel's warm and friendly atmosphere will have patrons returning for years to celebrate their love and friendship while creating incredible new memories.

For more info:
www.fairmont.com/tremblant

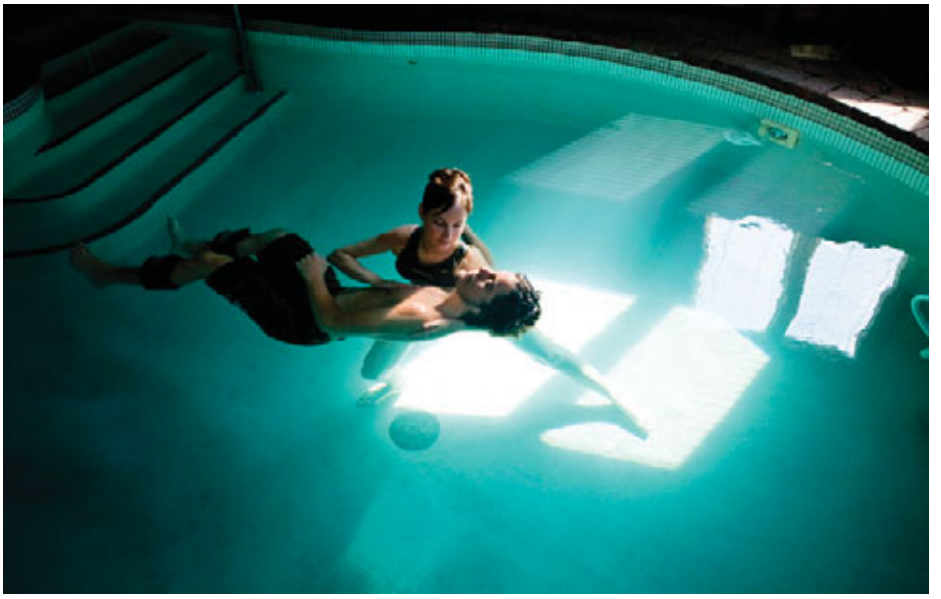
Spa Eastman

If you are looking for luxurious spa time for you and your love, the Spa Eastman is Quebec's top spa getaway where you and your wellbeing are the star of the show.

An ideal experience for lovers, a corporate retreat, a gals' getaway, an anniversary celebration or even for pampering yourself, this resort is geared towards adults and is not the best place for kids.

Eastman offers a wide variety of massages, facials, hydrotherapy, body treatments, aromatherapy, hair-care treatments, natural health cures and fantastic fitness programs, and delivers them with quality and professionalism.

Day or overnight guests can take part in their exquisite Eastman-les-bains experience, an invigorating Nordic spa treatment that involves getting into water at various temperatures, all in Eastman's incredible outdoor settings.



Spa Eastman

While you are being good to your outsides, you can take good care of your insides as this spa offers a wide assortment of healthy haute cuisine made from high-quality products – fresh organic produce, stone-ground flours, and maple syrup and honey as sweeteners.

With different packages available for couples, day stays and corporate events, Eastman is the ultimate way to break away from the everyday.

For more info:
www.spa-eastman.com

Montreal

When it comes to the bright lights of the big city, Montreal runs the gamut on places to stay and things to celebrate your love.

Whether you are planning a getaway for a couple or the entire family, sometimes the best thing to go for is the most obvious and celebrated pastimes – hockey.

Indulge your mutual love and love of Canada's favourite game at the Bell Centre, kicking off the night with ribs right across the street at the Baton Rouge before the game and then capping off the evening with a plush stay at the Centre Sheraton, just a hop, skip and a jump away.

But, if you've got a big budget for romance and you really want to set the stage for seduction in a high-class, five-star Old-World establishment, why not stay where the stars stay (The Rolling Stones, Madonna and U2 to name a few) and spend a night like no other at the Hotel Le St-James.

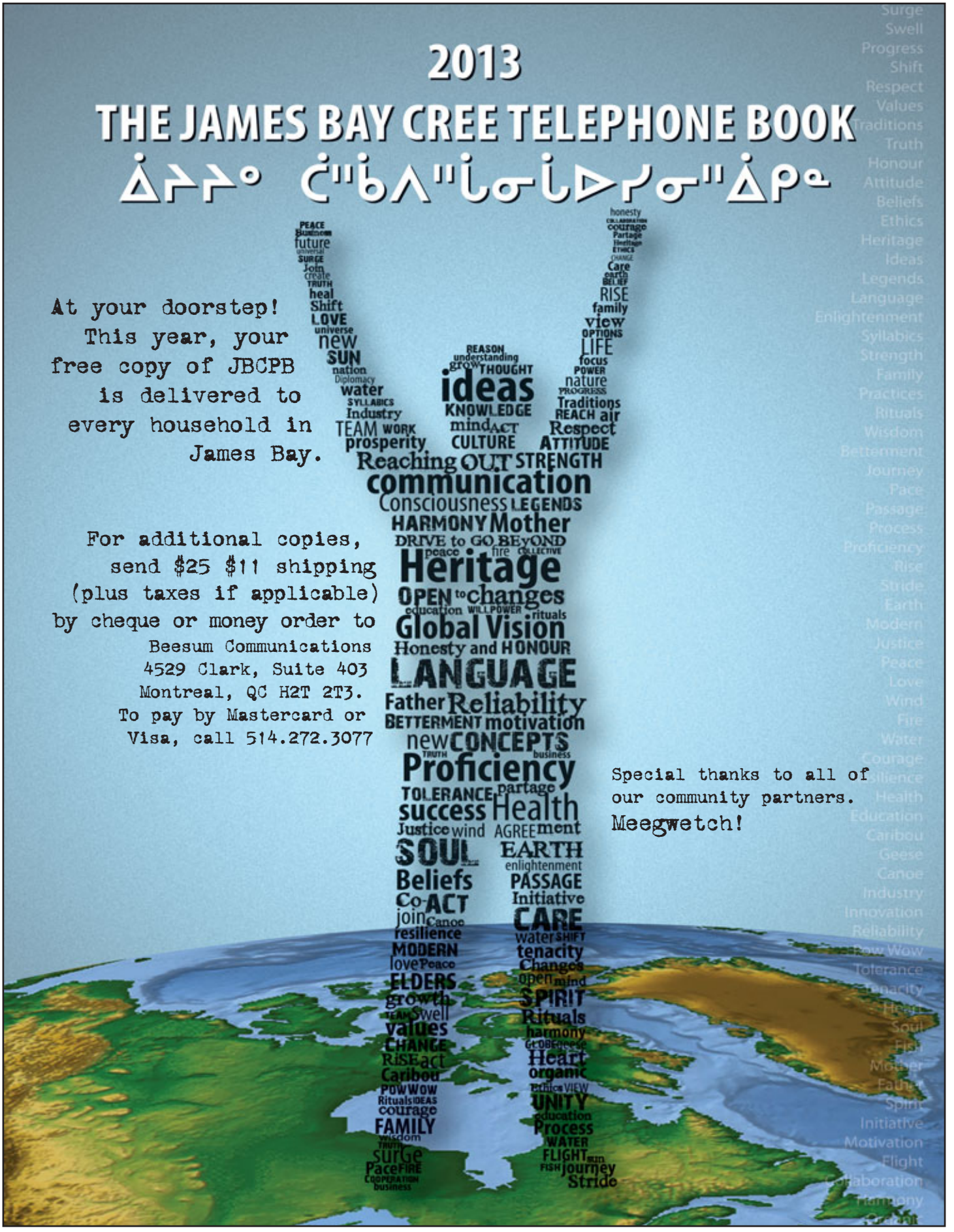
This stylish hotel is in the beautifully restored former Merchants Bank building, dating from 1870. It has retained many of its original mouldings and detail work during extensive renovations over the years.

With stunningly gorgeous suites that feature antiques and treasures from around the world, fine goose-down duvets and Frette linens from Italy, marble bathrooms and just about any other top-of-the-line amenity you can think of, this hotel epitomizes luxury.

Now offering special romantic packages for both Valentine's Day and just about any other day, when you are not luxuriating in your room you can dine at XO, Le St-James' in-house restaurant that has been voted one of Montreal's best several times over. Also included in these packages is a one-hour couple's massage to kick off this incredible treat-yourself extravaganza.

For more info:
www.hotellestjames.com

And with that, Happy St. Valentine's Day on behalf of *the Nation*. There is no time like the present to celebrate your love and tell the people who are important to you just how much you care.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Reviewing last year

The Eeyou police force looks back at 2012

by Akiva Levitas

It has been quite a year for the Eeyou Eenou Police Force, which is completing its second year as a unified police force. With many successful arrests and the start of a new training program, the EEPF has established its reputation and made the force more professional.

There are many facets to working as an EEPF police officer. For one thing, they are serving the Cree-speaking communities and as such it is important for them to be able to communicate with the citizens of Eeyou Istchee.

The year got off to a running start with Collège Ellis in Drummondville and the Cree School Board partnering up to form an AEC Police Technology program for First Nations and Inuit students. The program was set up to ensure their new recruits receive a full and up-to-date training on par with the rest of the country. The program is 12 months long with the first group of 21 recruits set to embark on a 14-week Police Patrolling training in the coming months.

Along with the Police Technology program, the EEPF has been given a green light by the Quebec public security ministry to send recruits to the Special Constable Training Program offered by the École nationale de police du Québec in Nicolet. Graduates of the program are guaranteed contractual employment with EEPF.

In line with their duties to protect and serve the people of Eeyou Istchee, the EEPF has set up a Facebook page where there are constant updates to the road conditions of the James Bay Highway. This information is posted by the EEPF as well as by many drivers using the highway. The Facebook group is just one of the facets which connects the EEPF with the communities they serve.

In June, six officers were honoured for their continued service to the community. Senior Officers Jim Hester and Tammy Coon were awarded for their 30 and 20 years of service, respectively. Officers Willie Gunner, David Lariviere and Nellie Mathias were recognized for their 15 years of service along with officer Tommy Grant, who has served 20 years. In November, Constable Charlie Gunner was awarded the Medal of Bravery by Governor General David Johnston for his role in the arrest of a man shooting randomly in the streets of Mistissini.

The year also saw a high number of drug busts in the region. The most notable of these occurred in Whapmagoostui during Operation Whapmag last October, when 16 officers searched four locations and seized a large amount of contraband and firearms.

Between July and November 2012 there were seven large busts in which the police seized illegal narcotics and alcohol as well as firearms. The message Police Chief Reggie Bobbish has reiterated with these busts is that the EEPF will not tolerate any perpetrators providing drugs and alcohol.

On a side note, the last recorded 2012 murder in Eeyou Istchee happened in Whapmagoostui-Kujjuarapik, where a 52-year-old victim was slain December 15. The case has been passed on to the Sûreté du Québec, which has apprehended a suspect. However, the SQ has not released any other details regarding this case despite repeated requests.

It has been a busy year, one in which the EEPF has grown both in size and in their efforts to reach out to the people they serve. Official statistics for 2012 will be released to the public in April to provide a more complete picture of what has occurred over the year.

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BILL NAMAGOOSE

Strateco tries to sideline Cree opposition

Uranium mining company files legal motion to eliminate "social acceptability" as criteria for approval of Matoush project

by Jesse Staniforth

Strateco Resources is asking Quebec Superior Court to declare that Cree opposition to uranium development in Eeyou Istchee cannot be an impediment to provincial approval of their Matoush project in the Otish Mountains.

The company filed a motion for mandamus and declaratory judgment in Quebec Superior Court January 17. In a press release, Strateco stated that it wants the Court "to declare null and void one of the conditions in the COMEX [provincial review] report which, in effect, delegates a provincial jurisdiction by requiring a written agreement be ratified with a third party concerning social acceptability."

The "third party" in Strateco's argument is the Cree of Eeyou Istchee. However, the COMEX report said the project could proceed only if it met with Cree approval. Cree opposition to uranium operations in Eeyou Istchee is unwavering.

"The Cree Nation has discussed this and decided it will not give its consent to this project," said Bill Namagoose, Executive Director of the Grand Council of the Crees. "The problem is that this is a recommendation from COMEX to the Quebec government. The Quebec government has the final decision. But now this is public. If the Quebec government is to ignore or reverse this decision, then we will have some structural problems with Quebec with respect to mining."

Nonetheless, Strateco hopes to force Quebec to make a final decision on whether the mine will proceed, with or without local acceptance. As the Strateco press release noted, both the Canadian Ministry of the Environment and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA) approved the project last year.

Strateco spokesperson Denis Boucher said the company was not aware of the COMEX requirement for social acceptability until the Cree Grand Council published the COMEX final report on the GCC website.

"That's when we saw what was in it," said Boucher. "We were never privy to the content of the report. We had heard through the grapevine that the recommendation of COMEX was positive and recommended that the project be approved, or authorized, by the government. But there was a recommendation of a condition in there that basically made it up to a third party to say whether or not it's going to authorize the project."

That's the basis of Strateco's legal arguments. "Because if you put it in the hands of a third party to sign an agreement, and failure of [that agreement] results in the project not moving forward, then it becomes a delegation of authority which is illegal based on our submission," said Boucher.

Namagoose takes exception to the description of the Cree Nation as a "third party."

"We're the treaty right holders," he insisted. "That's what the Jamesians have to understand. Crees have treaty rights. We're not a 'third party' to anything. This is a condition of the exchange of the land in 1975. The Crees cannot allow people to go outside of the JBNQA."

Strong Cree opposition to the project culminated in three days of public hearings before the Canadian Nuclear

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Safety Commission last July. Large numbers of Crees spoke out against the project; among them, Mistissini Chief Richard Shecapio and Mistissini council members stood firmly against uranium exploration on their ancestral territories. They were supported by the Grand Council of the Crees (GCC-CRA), which called for a permanent moratorium on uranium exploration, mining, milling or waste dumping in all of Eeyou Istchee.

In a press release stating its intention to contest Strateco's legal arguments, the GCC-CRA underlined that "the risks to the environment and human health created by uranium mining and waste are unique in scale and duration, and represent a burden on future generations that the Cree Nation is not prepared to assume."

Despite Cree resistance, last October the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission issued Strateco a five-year license to begin the project. However, the Quebec minister of sustainable development, environment, wildlife and parks called for public hearings at the Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement (BAPE), which have yet to begin.

Strateco strenuously attempted to convince Mistissini residents that the project poses no threat to Crees and their lands. According to its website, Strateco efforts to "integrate local communities into the Matoush Project development process, keep them informed on uranium-related issues and consider their concerns is reflected in numerous measures and initiatives [including m]eetings with the Chief of Mistissini and the Band Council, [m]eetings with the Grand Council of the Crees, [and m]eetings with the Tallymen and the Cree families whose traplines are located on land covered by the Matoush Project."

Responded Namagoose, "The Grand Council position is that we support the Mistissini people's decision that they don't want this mine in their territory. The Cree Nation supports that as a whole. The Grand Council will apply to intervene in the mandamus case. There's going to be three parties – the company, the Grand Council and Mistissini. We will be speaking on behalf of the James Bay Northern Quebec Agreement (JBNQA) and the environmental review process."

Namagoose said that Strateco's legal argument is fatally flawed because it ignores the JBNQA.

"Our intervention [in this case] says you have to respect the treaty," explained Namagoose. "The treaty involved here is not just a permit. Some people in the government don't seem to understand that Crees are treated different because we have treaty rights in the territory. The Jamesians don't have treaty rights. We're not part of the [general] population; we enjoy treaty rights that have to be respected. You hear some comments from politicians in the area that Crees are only 50% of the population, and that they should not prevail. But it's the treaty that should prevail."

Additionally, said Namagoose, the purpose of Section 22 of the JBNQA, which lays out provisions for dealing with environmental and social impacts of development, was designed with the assumption that the Quebec government would support recommendations made by the COMEX.

"We have a say under Section 22, which covers Category I, II and III lands [with reference to] Crees' participation through environmental and social impact assessment. One of the conditions of Section 22 says that the community affected should accept the project, that an agreement should be made with them. Now, the community has decided that they will not accept this project. Understand that the Crees will not accept uranium and are prepared to take campaigns against uranium."

In the GCC-CRA press release concerning the lawsuit, Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come states, "Strateco is mistaken in insisting that the federal authorizations that it has obtained to date entitle it to an authorization from Environment Quebec. The federal authorizations cannot determine whether uranium mining and uranium waste are acceptable for the Cree Nation and for Quebec."

> "THE QUEBEC GOVERNMENT HAS THE FINAL DECISION. BUT NOW THIS IS PUBLIC. IF THE QUEBEC GOVERNMENT IS TO IGNORE OR REVERSE THIS DECISION, THEN WE WILL HAVE SOME STRUCTURAL PROBLEMS WITH QUEBEC WITH RESPECT TO MINING."
>
> BILL NAMAGOOSE

Boucher was guarded when asked to respond to Namagoose's argument that the Crees are not "a third party" and to the contention that Section 22 of the JBNQA determines that Crees should have the final say over development projects that take place in their territory.

"I don't have a response to an opposite position," Boucher said. "Our position was presented and it will be the subject of arguments discussed in front of a judge and a decision will be made at that time. I think it would be totally inappropriate to discuss or make arguments about a case which is going to be in front of the superior court and is about to be heard by a judge."

Namagoose does not want to speculate about possible outcomes.

"If [the province ignores] the COMEX recommendation, it's not technically a breach [of the JBNQA]. Under the JBNQA, the Quebec government technically has the last say in this. But the JBNQA designed the first environmental review process in Canada. It was the first of its kind, and had never been done before. That was the Crees' gift to Canada and to the environment across Canada. A lot of environmental issues have been rolled back because of what the Crees designed in the JBNQA."

Addressing the issue

Cree entities come together to focus on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder

by Amy German

Stemming from a resolution signed by the Grand Chief at the 2012 Annual General Assembly of the Crees as a commitment to work on the issue of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) in Eeyou Istchee, six months later the issue got its own forum.

Congregating at the Delta Hotel in downtown Montreal for three days in the middle of January, delegates representing three Cree entities – the Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay (CBHSSJB), the Cree School Board (CSB) and the Cree Regional Authority (CRA) – and various Cree communities assembled to work on the issue.

According to Evike Goudreault, Head of Special Needs at the CBHSSJB in Chisasbi, giving the issue its own forum instead of lumping it in with the other disorders that fall under Special Needs in the Cree Nation has been a much-needed thing because the issue is so taboo.

"We look at the issue of children having behaviour problems and having learning difficulties, but we don't address the core cause," explained Goudreault.

However, that has changed as finally in 2013 there is a new determination within the people of Eeyou Istchee to not only identify the problem, but to look at ways of preventing FASD while also providing services for those who have been affected by it.

"I learned a lot because there were people here with FAS. We heard their testimonials and what it is like to live life with FAS. It was very touching and really emotional," said Judy Nakogee, who attended the event on behalf of the CRA.

During the forum, the participants received training on how to help those with FASD and how to recognize its signs, as well as develop action plans for both the short and long terms at a community level.

Evike Goudreault and participants in FASD Forum

"The forum was good, but what we really need right now is prevention. FASD is completely preventable, so we need to prevent it and then support these kids suffering from it," said Paul Linton of the CBHSSJB.

"Education is what needs to happen. We have to go to the youth because they are the ones who are going to drive this. Ten years from now, they will be the ones who are going to be in school, experimenting with all of these different things. We need to start this education at a young age. We often see youth as young as 13 engaging in everything from sex, drinking, smoking and drugs," said Linton.

According to Goudreault, who helped organize the forum, one of the best things to emerge from the event was a new willingness to address the issue by all of the entities present, particularly as there is more evidence of FASD.

More children with learning disabilities have appeared on the radar as graduation rates within Eeyou Istchee have plummeted over the years and the CRA has become aware of just how at risk these youth are.

As awareness about the issue has increased throughout the communities, those who have been affected by FASD are more comfortable speaking about it publicly. For the first time ever at this kind of event, Crees spoke about what

it's like to go through life with FASD while their families/caregivers discussed the impact it has had on their lives. For the first time in a public setting, a mother spoke openly about how her child came to suffer from FASD.

"I think other mothers are going to come forward and say that they also drank during pregnancy, while not knowing they were pregnant at the time or not knowing the dangers of alcohol. They too will admit that they drank and caused their child to have some brain damage," said Goudreault.

This situation may be more prevalent than many think, as FASD was never discussed within the communities until the early 2000s and still later when evidence of this problem began to become clear.

"Now that they are seeing more and more of it, they can put themselves in the shoes of the people who were speaking. They know people like that whether it is themselves, their cousins or nieces or nephews," said Goudreault.

"It is in their families. They have witnessed something in the communities and can now identify with it. They can say, maybe this is what is going on with my child or my neighbour's child or those other young adults."

According to Goudreault, various plans of action were put forward, particularly as the need for diagnosis and a plan to get individuals diagnosed was worked on. In order for those affected by FASD to get the kinds of services they need, a multidisciplinary diagnostic team has to be formed and they are hoping that this can be done in partnership with the Montreal Children's Hospital.

Ideally, this team would include people from various entities. So far the Special Needs department has been working with Dr. Kent Saylor of the Children's who has done some diagnosing in this field previously. There's also the need to engage a person to coordinate all of the services between the families and the service providers as the diagnosis would take several days and several meetings. The team would also need an occupational therapist, a speech therapist and a neuro-psychologist or a psychologist at the least to do some of the assessments.

The plan for this diagnostic team would be to start with children and then later focus on adults.

While children with FASD will receive help to get them through school and improve their lives in the long term, young adults who have already gone through school and are suffering with the issue will get their own focus.

"We would like to get them the support they need so that they can understand their disabilities, look at what their strengths are and how we can support them. Whether it is a bush program for example, that is something we can offer them or upgrading their education because now knowing their disabilities, perhaps with enough support they can go back to school," explained Goudreault.

"Or perhaps they need support with a financial situation when it comes to managing their budgets or getting housing. It is a holistic approach that is needed because it will not just be one service that they will need to help support them. These are young adults who have a lot of difficulties in their lives so it is a matter of finding ways in which they can be better supported."

"OUR PLAN IS TO ADDRESS SEXUALITY AT A YOUNG AGE. BECAUSE THE MOTHERS OF THESE KIDS ARE YOUNG, WE NOW NEED TO ADDRESS THIS WHILE THEY ARE YOUNG, BEFORE THEY START HAVING SEXUAL RELATIONSHIPS AND BEFORE THEY EVEN CONSIDER HAVING CHILDREN.."

This plan however is part of the longer-term solution, in the immediate future the focus will be on prevention as much as possible.

With that in mind, looking at strategies to deal with such a delicate subject matter is also something that needs to be handled carefully.

"Our plan is to address sexuality at a young age. Because the mothers of these kids are young, we now need to address this while they are young, before they start having sexual relationships and before they even consider having children. They need to have this information and so we would be doing this at the school level," said Goudreault.

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Lots of shiny chrome

The Montreal Auto Show underlines the concern for more fuel-efficient vehicles

by Iulian Boz

This year's Montreal International Auto Show (January 18-27) had a lot to offer. Aside from presenting upcoming models, new concepts and the latest technologies, there were lots of activities for the entire family.

Honda gave Montreal a gift by premiering its new concept of Honda Gear at the show. This is a big surprise for Montreal, since it hadn't seen a world premiere since the 1980s. It is a small car that will not be produced, but it has a remarkable style targeted mostly at young consumers.

Earlier Honda had announced its new SUV concept at the Detroit Auto Show. This small urban SUV will make its way into mass production sometime during the next two years. Smaller than the CRV, this new crossover will be built on Honda Fit platform. The innovative design and fuel-control technology makes it an interesting choice for someone who wants a relatively compact car, with all-wheel drive and maximum interior space for both passengers and cargo.

Speaking of fuel consumption, this auto show was proof that automakers are shifting towards green driving. Even in the large pickup truck category, fuel economy has become a major concern. General Motors will introduce the new 2014 Chevrolet Silverado with its new direct ignition and direct injection technology and a new type of engine lubricant that will deliver more miles per gallon.

Currently, Ford advertises its new 2013 F-150 as the best combination of power and gas consumption ever. Even the new 2014 Impala is supposed to consume 24% less fuel than the previous model. The trend of the North American automakers to make smaller cars continues. GM presented the new Chevy Trax, a small SUV with an amazing 1.4 turbo engine that will deliver up to 138 horsepower.

Infinity F1

Subaru is clearly accommodating Canadian driving conditions with its new announcements. The 2014 Forester and Forester DIT deliver 175 and 250 horsepower respectively. The automatic versions come with Continuously Variable Transmission (CVT) that controls the rpms and keeps them at an optimum point, which allows for better fuel consumption. Only the 175h/p version is available with a manual transmission.

Also, the 2013 XV Crosstrek comes in three versions. It is built on the Impreza platform, but is a pretty tall car, and with Subaru's symmetrical AWD is a great car for Canadian weather. For sports-driving enthusiasts, Subaru presented the 2013 BRZ, which is the first Subaru without all-wheel drive. It is a fun-to-drive car, and the rear-wheel drive delivers an amazing sporty performance. Interestingly enough, this model was made in partnership with Toyota. Scion FRS is the equivalent model on Toyota's side.

Nissan redesigned the Altima, Sentra and the Pathfinder. All the 2013 models come with Bluetooth, cruise control and board computer. Most of them will also come with a "Nissan Connect" GPS system that is powered by Google Points of Interest.

The handyman trucks got lots of attention, since Nissan put lots of work into designing cargo space and utility of their trucks, like the ladder that slides from the roof along the side of the vehicle.

Mazda will be launching models with SkyActiv technology, a new Mazda technology for fuel economy. It will be available for diesel engines as well, and surprisingly enough we should expect a SkyActiv turbo diesel version of Mazda 6 in Canada in September 2013. It will be the first diesel car in North America from a Japanese car manufacturer.

Fiat showed two new models of the 500 series: the 500L 2014, a larger, five-door version of the classic 500, and the 500C Abarth 2013, a sportier version with a sliding roof. At the show, they were right next to the Mini Coopers: the classic, the five-door and the new Mini Paceman 2013. The new trend I observed is to

create models that would target different market segments – larger cars for families and sporty versions for a younger consumer.

The auto show also provided an opportunity to take a trip into the past by presenting a representative model for each decade of the 20th century. Starting with the Ford Model T produced from 1908 to 1926, and ending with the Mazda Miata, a star of the 1990s, and the Mini Cooper, the icon of the 2000s, one could observe the evolution of car manufacturing over the years.

Aside from all the new models and new technologies, the Montreal Auto Show was primarily a fun place to be for the entire family. One of the main activities this year was the free test drive of an electric car. From the eight cars of five brands anyone could try a three-kilometre tour behind the wheels. It is a good idea to offer people an opportunity to feel what it's like to drive one, especially when you think of how much money you could be saving. Not to mention that Quebec's ministry of natural resources offers up to $8,000 in credits to purchasers of qualifying low-consumption cars. An additional credit is available to those who buy a charging station to use at home. Similar programs exist in other provinces and the amount of credits varies.

CAA Quebec offered a video simulator where you could try to drive "green". Frederic Lamonté, a specialist in "green driving", explained the theory before you tried (on the video simulator) to change your driving habits. From chasing green lights, gradual acceleration and breaking techniques, there's lots you can learn about improving fuel economy and polluting less.

Ford's sport driving simulator adapted for the Ford Fiesta 2014 was definitely a star activity at the show. It is a huge simulator on an elevated platform that allows movement in all directions to allow a real track-driving experience. It is equipped with three large screens for an exciting visual experience and the movements of the machine stimulate the pressures of turns, braking and acceleration. I drove a sport car on a real track once, and I can tell you that this simulator delivers an experience that is very close to the real deal.

Pontiac Pathfinder

BMW M3

Many other organizations were present at the show. The Sûreté du Québec was there with pamphlets and signs about driving rules, demerit points and car customization. Amusingly enough, Ticket911 (a law firm specializing in traffic violations) were distributing business cards saying how they can help avoid those points and negative driving records.

Other groups included the Centre de Formation Professionnelle de Verdun, which offers a DEP in auto mechanics in about 16 months; G1 Tour that was offering a track-driving experience for $129 (regular rates are about $400); auto insurers, car aesthetics services, and rust-proofing companies.

Whatever your interests are about the automotive world, the Montreal Auto Show delivers it all, so that you can find answers to your questions, have a good time or simply enjoy the cars.

CREE HOCKEY NEWS & NOTES

Mistissini's a winner

Hometown teams don't disappoint at Mistissini hockey tourney

by Daniel Coyle

The 26th Mistissini Invitational Senior Hockey and Broomball Tournament took place on the weekend of January 10-13, and the hometown teams did not disappoint. Overall, 14 teams competed in Men's Class A, B and C hockey, along with five Women's Broomball teams. Three Mistissini teams played for championship banners, reaching the finals of their respective classes.

In Men's Class A hockey action, the hometown Mistissini Trappers struggled out of the gate, falling in their opening match against the Waswanipi Chiefs 3-1, before bouncing back with a 3-3 tie against the Chisasibi Hunters, and improved with a big 7-3 win over the Waskaganish Wings to gain the 2nd seed in the playoff round. But the Wings would have their revenge, knocking off the Trappers in their playoff rematch by a score of 4-3, before spoiling the Waswanipi Chiefs' undefeated weekend, edging Chiefs in the championship game, again by a score of 4-3.

The Wings' Wendall Blackned was named Best Forward, while Lott Moses took home Best Goalie honours and Adrian Mayes was named Class A tournament MVP.

The Chiefs' Tyson Gull was named Best Defenceman, while Eldon Gull-Chum was chosen as the tourney's Most Sportsmanlike player.

Waswanipi Eagles - Women's Broomball Champs at the 26th Mistissini Senior Hockey & Broomball Tourney

In Class B Hockey, the final was an all-Mistissini affair, as the Beavers faced off against their hometown rivals, the Chummy's, in the battle for the championship banner.

The Chummy's struggled in the opening round, losing to the Beavers and Chibougamau, earning a playoff berth on the strength of an opening round victory over the Nemaska Axemen, the team they would later face, and defeat, in the tournament semi-final.

The Beavers made the best of their opportunities, qualifying for the playoff round by virtue of a one-goal edge over Chibougamau in goal differential, and earning a spot in the final by knocking off Division 1 leaders Mashteuiatsh in the semi-final by a score of 6-1.

But this weekend belonged to the Chummy's, as they took home the Class B hockey championship, defeating the Beavers 4-3.

Robert Metabie Jr. of the Chummy's was named MVP, while Alex Boivin and Luke Mianscum were named Most Sportsmanlike player and Best Goalie, respectively.

The Beavers' Albert Brien was chosen as Best Forward, while teammate Christopher Neeposh was tops on the blue line.

The Class C hockey final saw a pair of 2-1 teams meet. The Opitciwan Ex-Boys rebounded from a 9-2 thrashing at the

hands of the Mistissini Jets in their tournament opener to deliver some punishment of their own throughout the rest of the qualifying round and semi-finals. The Ex-Boys earned a spot in the Class C final, and a chance for revenge against the Jets.

But it was not to be for the Ex-Boys, as the Jets would notch another hometown victory, again manhandling the Ex-Boys in the final, this time by a score of 4-0.

The Jets' Emmett Coonishish was named MVP, while teammates Norman Iserhoff and Kevin Neeposh took home Top Forward and Defenceman honours, respectively. Ex-Boys' Yvans Petiguay was the Most Sportsmanlike player in Class C action, while Rocky Awashish took home Top Goalie honours.

Class C Hockey Champs at the 26th Mistissini Senior Hockey & Broomball Tournament

The tournament also included plenty of Women's Broomball action. The Waskaganish Starlites, who we have become accustomed to seeing battle for tournament banners, struggled to reach the final in Mistissini. After finishing second in the qualifying round, the Starlites needed a slim 1-0 victory over the hometown Mistissini Glaciers to reach the championship game, where they would face off against the undefeated Waswanipi Eagles. But the Starlites failed to produce their typical offensive display, falling to the Eagles in the final by a score of 1-0.

The Eagles' Daisy Ottereyes was named Tournament MVP, while Allanah Happyjack was named Best Forward and Serena Snowboy was named Top Goalie. The Starlites' Pierrette Salt took home the prize for Best Defence, while teammate Martina Cowboy was named Most Sportsmanlike Player.

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Fax: (819) 824-5420

Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency | Agence canadienne d'évaluation environnementale

Public Notice

January 29, 2013
Whabouchi Mining Project
Public Comments Invited

As part of the strengthened and modernized *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012* (CEAA 2012) put in place to support the government's Responsible Resource Development Initiative, the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency has commenced a federal environmental assessment for the proposed Whabouchi Mining Project, located in Quebec, on January 29, 2013. The Agency invites the public to comment on which aspects of the environment may be affected by this project and what should be examined during the environmental assessment.

The public can review and comment on the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Guidelines. This document identifies the potential environmental effects to be taken into consideration and the information and analysis that needs to be included in the proponent's EIS.

Nemaska Lithium inc. is proposing the construction, operation and decommissioning of an open pit spodumene mine for the production of lithium. The Whabouchi mine is located at 30 km of the cree community of Nemiscau and 280 km north of Chibougamau. As proposed, the project includes the operation of an open pit, waste and tailings impoundment area, a concentrator of ore as well as administration buildings and maintenance. The mine would produce about 3 000 tonnes of ore for 23-year life span.

Written comments must be submitted by **February 28, 2013 to**:

Whabouchi Mining Project
Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
901-1550, d'Estimauville Avenue
Quebec, QC G1J 0C1
Tel.: 418-649-6444 Fax: 418-649-6443
MinierWhabouchiMining@ceaa-acee.gc.ca

To view the draft EIS Guidelines or for more information, visit the Agency's website at

www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca (registry reference number 80021). All comments received will be considered public.

Copies of the draft EIS Guidelines are also available for viewing at the following locations:

Municipal Library
601 3rd Street
Chibougamau QC

32 Machishteweyaau Trail
Némiscau QC

Municipal Library
30 Cavelier
Matagami QC

Isaac Shecapio Sr.
Administration Building
187, Main Street
Mistissini QC

Consistent with the transparency and public engagement elements of CEAA 2012, this is the second of four opportunities for Canadians to comment on this project. Following this comment period, the Agency will finalize and issue the EIS Guidelines to the proponent. An application period for participant funding and a future public comment period related to the EIS will be announced later.

This project will be assessed using a science-based approach. If the project is permitted to proceed to the next phase, it will continue to be subject to Canada's strong environmental laws, rigorous enforcement and follow-up, and increased fines.

The Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency administers the federal environmental assessment process, which identifies the environmental effects of proposed projects and measures to address those effects, in support of sustainable development.

Canada

by Lyle Stewart

Enduring the cold

Cold weather, real cold, is an awe-inspiring thing. Obviously, I'm not talking about Toronto's call-a-national-emergency-at-minus-10 cold. I grew up in Alberta and Northern BC, so I am familiar with a real winter.

I had the privilege recently to renew my acquaintance with winter's deep freeze when I experienced record cold temperatures in Mistissini and Chibougamau. It renewed my respect for the north and the power – much less frequent even in Eeyou Istchee these days – that extreme winter cold has to humble human pride.

I knew it was cold the morning my brand-new rental SUV refused to start. Then, when I was unable to attach booster cables to the vehicle's battery because the hood was solidly frozen shut, I started to realize this was an abnormal cold. Five minutes later, my fingers couldn't move, my ears began to blister, and I was unable to speak because the muscles in my face refused to respond the way they normally do.

Eventually, after frequent shuttling inside for thawing-out sessions beside a roaring wood stove, and with more than a little help from my friends, we were able to get the vehicle started so I could get on with the day. What I didn't realize was that that morning's cold was just a warm up, so to speak.

The next dawn, with the breeze gusting up to 50 kilometres an hour, the wind chill approached minus-60 Celsius. Thankfully, having run the vehicle late that night and parked it out of the wind, I was able to get it started and make my way back to the relatively humane climate of Montreal (where it was a balmy -25), humbled and chilled as I was.

Meanwhile, that morning, at Burton Lake far to the north, five determined Cree youth and their two guides were almost a week and 82 km into an overland trek from Whapmagoostui to Ottawa in their epic journey to support the demands of the Idle No More movement. The Quest of Wisjinichu-Nishiyuu, as they have dubbed the journey, already has close to 20,000 followers on their Facebook page for this incredible effort to call attention to the Harper government's legislative abuses of First Nations across Canada.

photo by Rachel Kawapit

The Quest of Wisjinichu-Nishiyuu

This is no idle pastime. I know many Cree folks will chuckle at this wimpy southerner for complaining about how cold I was during a brief winter trip to the James Bay region. But I know that all readers of the Nation respect the serious danger that extreme cold represents, even for experienced outdoorsmen (and women).

As I write, almost two weeks after they set out, the group is nearing Chisasibi. The cold has abated, even getting close to zero on one day this past week. Temporarily, at least, the dangers of frostbite and hypothermia are less of a concern. But there are still about 1100 kilometres to walk, and a lot of winter remains to be endured before these young men finally arrive to a hero's welcome on Parliament Hill.

The value of an effort like this is in the solidarity that it inspires. There is something mythic about a life-changing adventure for the people involved. But it's not a simple expression of self-affirmation or rugged machismo. This reaches a higher plane because these youth are willingly enduring pain, cold and hunger on behalf of their Native brothers and sisters across the country.

That's why growing numbers of people around the world and from all walks of life will increasingly feel a personal stake in their success. Already, their Facebook page is inundated with hundreds of supportive posts and requests from followers hungry for the latest information on their progress. Their journey and their challenge resonate because it is a profoundly human quest that, deep down, we would all like to be able to undertake.

> THESE YOUTH ARE WILLINGLY ENDURING PAIN, COLD AND HUNGER ON BEHALF OF THEIR NATIVE BROTHERS AND SISTERS ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

The "Journey of Nishiyuu," the short name for this march, embodies this notion. As I've only just learned, the term Nishiyuu commonly refers to humankind in Cree and a number of other Native tongues. According to legend, it is the word that the creatures of the world gave us when we humans came into being.

Former Cree Grand Chief Matthew Mukash expanded on the story in a wonderful posting on the group's Facebook page.

"The term has a complex and much deeper meaning," Mukash wrote, "which includes the possible evolutionary divergence of the human lineage from other species, as well as the oneness of time within which all life begins and ends. Since time immemorial, we have called ourselves 'Nishiyuu' (human beings) (as we do today) to distinguish ourselves from our relatives in the Natural Kingdom. The term could be said to include reference to all of humankind."

Whatever the meaning we attach to it, the journey is certainly a wonderful focus for activists and supporters of the Idle No More movement since Attiwapiskat Chief Theresa Spence finally ended her 44-day hunger strike January 24. The closer the Nishiyuu trekkers get to Ottawa, the more the momentum of international media attention will grow. And with it, so will the pressure on Prime Minister Harper to deal seriously with his government's abuse and neglect toward the first humans of this land.

We all stand to gain if that happens. But even more importantly, this small group of young people are inspiring us to stand together for the greater good of Nishiyuu. It's a hope to warm the heart on the coldest of days.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

CREE OUTFITTING AND TOURISM ASSOCIATION
COTA
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ASSOCIATION CRIE DE POURVOIRIE ET DE TOURISME

Cree Outfitting
& Tourism Association
203 Opemiska Meskino
Ouje-Bougoumou, Qc
G0W 3C0
Tel: 418-745-2220
Fax: 418-745-2240
admin@creetourism.ca

For more information about the new positions to fill, please visit our website:
www.creetourism.ca

CREE PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT OFFICER:

Reporting to the Executive Director of COTA / EIT, the Product Development Officer participates in the development of regional tourism by carrying out all required studies, developing strategies and action plans, and implementing all potential means (partnerships, promotions, recruitment, etc.) of fostering the development of tourism products in partnership with producers (SMBs), development corporations, and other players in the tourism sector.

COORDINATOR, COMMUNICATIONS AND MEMBER SERVICES:

Reporting to the Executive Director and working closely with other staff, the Coordinator for Communications and Member Services plays leadership role with respect to communications and public relations for COTA / EIT. The Coordinator is responsible for overseeing service delivery to COTA / EIT members and is responsible for membership development.

Your résumé must be received no later than February 26, 2013
Please send them by mail, fax or email.

UNDER THE NORTHERN SKY

Too many die on our northern highways

by Xavier Kataquapit

Here we are again in the middle of winter. This year up north, I am hearing lots of reports of snow and freezing temperatures. Last week, the temperatures with wind chills were in the minus 40 to 50 range in many places across the country. However, all this started late after a mild fall.

Right now, as we head into February, I understand that the really frigid temperatures have given way to freezing rain in many areas in northern Ontario. None of the Elders I talk to can remember such turmoil and ups and downs in the weather systems.

One of the problems that comes out of mild mid-winter weather systems has to do with traveling on northern roads. On slushy highways, where there is freezing rain, accidents happen often. Too many people die on our highways in the winter. It is almost as though they are sacrificed to the almighty car.

When I try to explain to my friends in southern climates or other warmer parts of the world that often I drive on frozen slippery highways and in freezing rain, they are shocked. When I explain further to them that most of the roads in the north are not divided but rather have two-way traffic, they are even more shocked. Then when I tell them that long lines of transport trucks run steadily along these frozen northern highways, only several feet away from oncoming traffic, that really surprises them.

I have found myself explaining how we drive in northern Ontario to people and realizing that their shock is understandable. Everyone wants to be independent and own a car, but at what cost in these dangerous winter conditions?

I have often found myself explaining to family and friends that my travels outside the country were never very dangerous. However, the most life-threatening experiences in heading out to other countries I have always found to be the drive on frozen slippery highways or in sleet as I drove on my way to the Toronto Pearson International Airport.

For some strange reason, our government leaders have decided over the past couple of decades that we don't need train travel in much of Canada anymore. Tracks have been torn up all over this country. This has meant that anyone who does not have a car or access to one is faced with having to pay a lot of money to fly out of the north.

I know that in the past that many First Nation people depended on the rail system to make their way from semi-remote communities to southern towns and cities. They did this mainly for health reasons but also for employment, education and recreation. The rail option is almost gone from many communities across Canada at this point. Even bus transportation has diminished to the point where it often does not make a lot of sense and it is certainly not as comfortable as a train.

I hear municipalities talking more and more these days about the desire to replace some of the tracks that have been taken from so many communities. The problem is that this is a very expensive undertaking.

Travel by air is certainly possible from northern cities to the south but it is incredibly expensive. In most cases, what it costs to fly from a small north city to Winnipeg, Toronto or Montreal amounts to the same or more that it takes to fly to Europe. That is a bit crazy and it means that people without a lot of money just don't have the same opportunity when it comes to transportation.

As gas and oil becomes more expensive, the cost of transportation by car is becoming a lot more expensive. I imagine that within the next 20 to 30 years we won't have any choice but to really consider more train travel and to reinvest in putting tracks back where they have been torn up. We just won't be able to afford cars and transport by trucks might be cost prohibitive.

I, for one, would be able to adapt to not having my own personal vehicle if there was an efficient, safe, comfortable and fast train service that connected us to destinations all over this land. As a matter of fact, that kind of a trend would make a lot of sense to me. In terms of the safety factor, less people would be losing their lives on slippery winter roads.

I know too many people who have lost their lives merely because they wanted to drive their car from one northern town to another. Our winter roads in the north provide a situation where accidents are just waiting to happen. We need to bring back the trains.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

'We Are Proud Parents' is a bi-weekly round table parenting group held in the kitchen of the Maquatua Eeeyou School in Wemindji every Tuesday and Thursday evening from 5.30 to 7.30 p.m. Discussions, latest parenting research, tips and ideas are awith a healthy hot supper prepared for busy participants by course animators, Eleanor Cowan and Alicia Kalmanovitch. Course runs from January 15 - February 28, 2013. "Drop in for a class or two. We'd love to meet you!" For more info contact eleanor_cowan04@yahoo.ca

Human Rights education and information activities for community organisations The Education and Cooperation Division of the Commission des droits de la personne et des droits de la jeunesse is offering your community association free of charge a variety of human rights workshops and resources. The main goal of the workshops is to promote a culture of human rights throughout Quebec society. We will be dealing with key human rights values, as well as their accompanying responsibilities. To obtain more information, we invite you to read the enclosed leaflet or to consult our website at: http://www.cdpdj.qc.ca . Click on English, and go to Training, and then Community groups. If you are interested in any of the workshops, please do not hesitate to contact us to plan a workshop at a time convenient for you.

Call for digital arts, visual arts, cinema and video projects for the production of works within the framework of the Exposition de synthèse et de référence sur les Premières Nations et les Inuit du Québec [tentative title] at the Musée de la civilisation. Registration deadline: January 26, 2013. For more information: T: 418-528-2582 Toll free: 1-800-897-1707 Email: marianne.thibeault@calq.gouv.qc.ca www.calq.gouv.qc.ca

FNQLHSSC is organizing a contest and invites youths aged 13 to 25 to create a video illustrating what wellness represents to them. The deadline for submitting videos is January 31, 2013 and the voting period (online on Facebook) will begin on February 1, 2013 as part of First Nations Wellness Day. The contest's rules will be available soon on the Facebook page of the FHQLHSSC at www.facebook.com/cssspnql.

Available now in your Aboriginal Entrepreneurship Online Community. In videos and Q&As, on location at the Aboriginal Entrepreneurship Conference Women Leaders workshop and online across Canada... Sheila Isaac, Anne Noonan, Julie Pelletier, Nicole Robertson and Tracy Scarlett share insights with women from across Canada on leveraging leadership, overcoming obstacles and succeeding in business. This unique video series illustrates how to do it! It's real, it's useful and it's FREE. www.ideaconnector.net/womens-sharing-circle

TD Scholarships for Community Leadership - Apply today! Applications available at Your high school or CEGEP (in Quebec) Online at www.td.com/scholarship or Call 1-800-308-8306 TTY (Text telephone) 1-800-361-1180

Cultural Manual for Foster and Adoptive parents of Aboriginal Children, launched at the last Gathering of the NETWORK on October 3... CHECK IT OUT! www.reseaumtlnetwork.com/eng/Portals/5/Cultural%20Manual.pdf

The Aviva Community Fund is Canada's longest running online community competition. With over $2.5 million dollars given away to date, the Aviva Community Fund is making a difference in communities across the country. Submit your idea for positive change and have a chance at sharing in this year's $1 million Aviva Community Fund. For more info go to http://www.avivacommunityfund.org/

Kid's Help Phone Line: 1-800-668-6868 (www.kidshelpphone.ca)

Youth Helpline: 1-800-263-2266 (www.teljeunes.com)

Parents' Helpline: 1-800-361-5085 (www.parenthelpline.ca)

Missing Children's Network: They'll help you find kids who have run away or disappeared. 514-843-4333 (www.enfant-retourquebec.ca)

Drug Addiction help and reference: 1-800-265-2626 (www.drogue-aidereference.qc.ca)

Gambling Addiction help and reference: 1-800-265-2626 (www.info-reference.qc.ca)

S.O.S. Conjugal Violence: 1-800-363-9010 (www.sosviolenceconjugale.com)

Health and Sexuality Resources Center: 1-888-855-7432 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm) (www.criss.org)

Gay Helpline: 1-888-505-1010 (Monday to Friday, 8 am to 3 am and Saturday-Sunday, 11 am to 3 am)

The Native Women's Shelter of Montreal: 1-866-403-4688 (www.nwsm.info)

Suicide Action Québec: 1-866-277-3553 (www.suicide-quebec.net)

Residential School Survivors: A 24 hour toll-free crisis line is available to provide immediate emotional assistance and can be reached 24-hours a day, seven days a week: 1-866-925-4419. Other support services and information for survivors is available on the AFN website at: www.afn.ca/residentialschools/resources

Concordia University, Montreal:

The Centre for Native Education has changed its name to the Aboriginal Student Resource Centre (ASRC). The new name is inclusive of the First Nations, Inuit and Métis students the centre serves and recognizes its role as a resource for the Concordia community. For any further details contact: aboriginalcentre@concordia.ca or 514-848-2424 ext. 7327.

NATION CLASSIFIEDS

James Bay's Bulletin Board

Birthdays, Anniversaries, Personal Sales and Personal messages are FREE if you live in Cree territory.*

Our magazine is published every two weeks… so think ahead!

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By fax: 514-278-9914
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For more information call: 514-272-3077

*Fees may apply for ads from outside Cree Territory (Eeyou Istchee)

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Or visit our website at: www.aircreebec.ca

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DEADLINE TO SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION: MARCH 1, 2013.

TEHQ Programs

Vocational Programs (DEP), 2 year-programs

- Automated Systems Electro-Mechanics, Rouyn
- Industrial Construction and Maintenance Mechanics, Amos

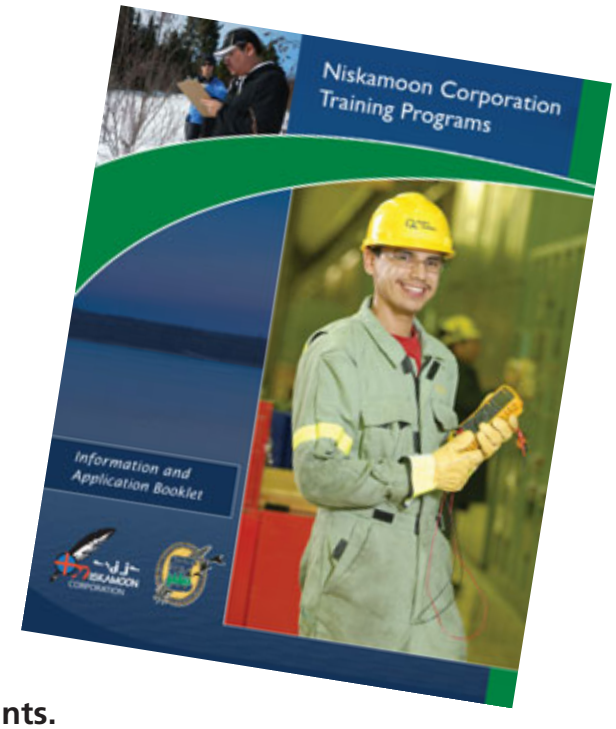
Technical Programs (DEC), 3 year-programs

- Industrial Electronics in Instrumentation and Automation, Rouyn
- Electronics Technology in Telecommunications/Computers, Gatineau

Additional Programs

(DEC), 3 year-programs

- Civil Engineering Technology, Rouyn
- Natural Environment Technology (NET), Chibougamau



A wide range of financial incentives and support measures are provided to eligible applicants.

For more information

Visit the Niskamoon Local Coordinator in your community to learn about the programs or the additional incentives and benefits they have to offer OR contact Andrea Kitchen: toll-free 1.877.441.1101

www.niskamoon.org